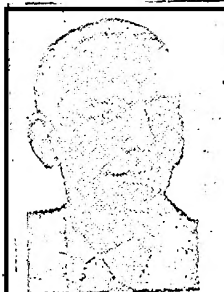


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Memories

The Dirty War

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By TOM DONNELLY

"THE SCIENCE OF SPYING," which was shown the other night on Channel 4, was a disturbing documentary, sometimes a chilling one. The subject was the CIA and one of the more disturbing segments was an interview with a man named Fred Sherwood, who talked about the plot to overthrow Colonel Jacobo Arbenz, the leftist president of Guatemala. Mr. Sherwood was identified as a former air attache at the American embassy in Guatemala.

After John Chancellor, the narrator, had observed that the American Government, thru the CIA, had made an alliance with Arbenz's opposition, Mr. Sherwood came on as follows:

"Several of us thought we could stop ... the Arbenz ... movement by organizing something in the form of vigilantes or night raiders. For example, there was a group that tried to bring in some Puerto Rican and Cuban gangsters who made an offer, a package deal so to speak, to kill or assassinate any 12 communist within the country for \$50,000. We went around trying to raise the money, but we were only successful in raising part of it so this never came off."

Mr. Sherwood went on to say that the American government supplied resistance groups with technicians, pilots, demolition teams, and "psychologists who organized rumor networks." These men "provided the know-how of organizing a successful revolution."

Mr. Sherwood might have been talking about "How We Got The New Improved Zipso Detergent to the Top of the Sales Chart."

Mr. Chancellor then observed that the CIA-sponsored "liberation army" had bogged down in its effort to overthrow the Arbenz regime when "an American freebooter named Jerry Delarm strayed the city and blew up the government oil reserves. Delarm did that while flying a P-47 furnished by the United States. Two days after Delarm's bombing mission, Arbenz resigned. "However," said Mr. Chancellor, "his replacements hesitated to embrace Delarm's employers, so Delarm got back in his plane and blew up the main army powder magazine, which rather decided the question."

Mr. Delarm made a brief appearance. Now he flies his own Lodestar, owns his own charter service, and "minds his own business." Mr. Delarm, the smiling man of peace, said he has been flying in Latin America since 1939: "I like it here. It's easy living. Siestas, and not much rushing. No rut. It's a nice place."

Allan Dulles, the former CIA chief, rather flamboyantly described by Mr. Chancellor as "a super-spy in the classic mold," said: "At no time has the CIA engaged in any political activity or any intelligence that was not approved at the highest level ..."

Richard Bissell, a former CIA director of plans ("the man who created U-2 and also planned the Bay of Pigs"), conceded that occasionally Americans involved in CIA operations were obliged to take "certain actions that were contrary to their moral precepts."

The TV screen was given over to close-up of the beached, burned-out hulk of the British freighter, Spring-Fjord. Mr.

Chancellor explained that the ship was lying off the coast of Guatemala, loaded with coffee and cotton in 1954, at the time when "the American government was overthrowing the communist-oriented government of Guatemala. A P-38 fighter, piloted and operated by the CIA, thought the Spring-Fjord was carrying aircraft to the legal government of Guatemala, so the American pilot dropped three bombs. Only one went off and the crew escaped unhurt ..."

Mr. Bissell's voice was heard over a close-up of the charred fragments of the Spring-Fjord: "There was one sub-incident which I don't wish to identify, in which an action was taken that went beyond the established limit of policy."

"The CIA's on active duty in a constant, secret, dirty war," Mr. Chancellor said. "The problem we have is how to reconcile the necessity of the CIA with its secret offenses against our public morality. These days, it's getting more and more uncomfortable to be an American, and there doesn't seem to be much we can do about it."

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